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ARMY NURSE CORPS

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HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEVENTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

H. R. 3718

A BILL TO GRANT MILITARY RANK TO CERTAIN MEMBERS
OF THE ARMY NURSE CORPS

H. R. 3761

A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR FULL MILITARY RANK FOR
MEMBERS OF THE ARMY NURSE CORPS, DIETITIANS, AND
PHYSICAL-THERAPY AIDES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

AND

H. R. 4445

A BILL TO AUTHORIZE TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT AS
OFFICERS IN THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF
MEMBERS OF THE ARMY NURSE CORPS, FEMALE PERSONS
HAVING THE NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINT-
MENT IN SUCH CORPS, FEMALE DIETETIC AND PHYSICAL-
THERAPY PERSONNEL OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF
THE ARMY (EXCLUSIVE OF STUDENTS AND APPRENTICES),
AND FEMALE PERSONS HAVING THE NECESSARY QUALI-
FICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT IN SUCH DEPARTMENT
AS FEMALE DIETETIC OR PHYSICAL-THERAPY PERSONNEL,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

APRIL 27, 1944

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

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III

ARMY NURSE CORPS

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1944

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

The committee met at 10:30 a. m., pursuant to call, Hon. Andrew J. May (chairman) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will please be in order.

Gentlemen of the committee, we have met this morning for the consideration of three bills relating to the Army Nurse Corps, H. R. 3718, 3761, and 4445, two of them introduced by Mrs. Bolton and one by Mr. Sparkman.

(The committee had under consideration H. R. 3718, 3761, and 4445, which are as follows:)

[H. R. 3718, 78th Cong., 1st sess.]

A BILL To grant military rank to certain members of the Army Nurse Corps.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That during the present war and for 6 months thereafter, or until such earlier time as the Congress by concurrent resolution or the President by proclamation may designate, the superintendent and all other members of the Army Nurse Corps entitled under existing laws to relative rank shall have and shall be designated by the rank which corresponds to the relative rank heretofore provided by law for such superintendent and members.

SEC. 2. Nothing in this Act contained shall alter, enlarge, or modify the provisions of law relating to the authority of such members of the Army Nurse Corps, or to the manner of their appointment.

[H. R. 3761, 78th Cong., 1st sess.]

A BILL To provide for full military rank for members of the Army Nurse Corps, dietitians, and physical-therapy aides, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be in the Medical Department of the Army an Army Nurse Corps.

SEC. 2. (a) The Army Nurse Corps shall consist of one superintendent who shall be a colonel, and such other officers of lower rank as the Secretary of War may prescribe, who shall be citizens of the United States and shall have such education and training and shall have passed such moral, mental, and physical examination as shall be prescribed by the Surgeon General. Such other officers of lower rank than colonel as the Secretary of War may prescribe may also be appointed in the Army of the United States, under the provisions of the joint resolution of September 22, 1941 (55 Stat. 728), and assigned to the Army Nurse Corps. Nothing contained in this Act shall prohibit appointments in the Army Nurse Corps, as vacancies may exist therein, of officers directly from civilian life or from those appointed in the Army of the United States and assigned to the Army Nurse Corps.

(b) The superintendent and all members (other than Reserve nurses) of the Army Nurse Corps on the date this Act takes effect shall receive commis-

slons as officers in the Army Nurse Corps, as hereby constituted, with ranks corresponding to the respective relative ranks held by them on such date. All other members (Reserve nurses) of the Army Nurse Corps on the date this Act takes effect shall receive commissions as officers in the Army of the United States under the provisions of the joint resolution of September 22, 1941 (55 Stat. 728), with ranks corresponding to the respective relative ranks held by them on such date and shall be assigned to the Army Nurse Corps as hereby constituted.

SEC. 3. (a) There shall be included in the Medical Department of the Army such female dietetic and physical-therapy personnel (exclusive of students and apprentices) as the Secretary of War may prescribe, who shall be citizens of the United States and shall have such training and shall have passed such moral, mental, and physical examination as shall be prescribed by the Surgeon General. A director of dietitians and a director of physical-therapy aides, each of whom shall be a major, and such other officers of lower rank as the Secretary of War may prescribe shall be appointed in the Army of the United States under the provisions of the joint resolution of September 22, 1941 (55 Stat. 728).

(b) The director of dietitians and the director of physical-therapy aides and all dietitians and all physical-therapy aides who, on the date this Act takes effect, hold the relative ranks of commissioned officers shall receive commissions as officers in the Army of the United States under the provisions of the joint resolution of September 22, 1941 (55 Stat. 728), with the ranks corresponding to the respective relative ranks held by them on such date and shall be assigned to the Medical Department.

SEC. 4. No person receiving a commission pursuant to sections 2 (b) and (3) (b) of this Act, who shall have subscribed to the oath of office required by section 1757, Revised Statutes, shall be required to renew such oath or to take a new oath, if her service after the taking of such an oath shall have been continuous.

SEC. 5. Except as otherwise expressly provided by this Act, all provisions of law with respect to commissioned officers of the Army, including those provisions of law conferring rights, privileges, immunities, and benefits upon commissioned personnel, their dependents and beneficiaries, shall apply to officers appointed hereunder in the Army Nurse Corps or in the Army of the United States.

SEC. 6. (a) In computing, for all purposes, service of officers appointed in the Army Nurse Corps and officers appointed in the Army of the United States and assigned to the Army Nurse Corps, there shall be credited active service in the Army Nurse Corps, as heretofore and hereby constituted, and in the Navy Nurse Corps, active service as contract nurse prior to February 2, 1901, and service as a Reserve nurse on active duty since February 2, 1901.

(b) In computing, for all purposes, service of dietitians and physical-therapy aides, there shall be credited all active full-time service (except service as a student or apprentice) in the dietetic or physical-therapy categories rendered subsequent to April 6, 1917, as a civilian employee of the War Department and active service as a dietitian or physical-therapy aide under the provisions of the Act approved December 22, 1942.

SEC. 7. With respect to medical, sanitary, and dietary matters and all other work within the line of their professional duties, officers appointed hereunder in the Army Nurse Corps or in the Army of the United States shall have authority in and about military hospitals next after the other officers of the Medical Department, and shall exercise command over such other personnel of the Army as may be specifically assigned to duty under them.

SEC. 8. The authority appointing a court martial for the trial of an officer appointed hereunder in the Army Nurse Corps or in the Army of the United States shall, whenever practicable, detail one or more other officers so appointed to serve on the court.

SEC. 9. When an officer appointed hereunder in the Army Nurse Corps or in the Army of the United States has attained the age of 55 years or is found by a board of medical officers to have become disabled in line of duty (unless and so long as she shall be assigned to administrative or executive duties), she shall be placed on the retired list of the Army with the rank held by her at the time of her retirement.

SEC. 10. The Secretary of War is authorized to use appropriations available to the Military Establishment to carry into effect the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with the provisions of this Act are repealed, except (i) that those provisions of law which relate to retirement

and retired pay of members of the Army Nurse Corps shall remain in effect with respect to members of such corps who have been retired prior to the date this Act takes effect, and (ii) that the Act entitled "An Act to increase the pay and allowances of members of the Army Nurse Corps, and for other purposes", approved December 22, 1942, shall remain in effect solely to the extent necessary to determine in accordance with said Act the relative rank and pay and allowances of technical and professional female personnel in categories required for duty outside the continental United States and of the superintendent and members of the Navy Nurse Corps.

Sec. 12. This Act shall take effect . . . days after the date of its enactment.

[H. R. 4445, 78th Cong., 2d sess.]

A BILL To authorize temporary appointment as officers in the Army of the United States of members of the Army Nurse Corps, female persons having the necessary qualifications for appointment in such corps, female dietetic and physical-therapy personnel of the Medical Department of the Army (exclusive of students and apprentices), and female persons having the necessary qualifications for appointment in such department as female dietetic or physical-therapy personnel, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, members of the Army Nurse Corps, female persons having the necessary qualifications for appointment in such corps, female dietetic and physical-therapy personnel of the Medical Department of the Army (exclusive of students and apprentices) appointed under the provisions of the Act of December 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 1072), and female persons having the necessary qualifications for appointments in such department as female dietetic or physical-therapy personnel under the provisions of the Act of December 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 1072), may be appointed as officers in the Army of the United States under the provisions of the joint resolution of September 22, 1941 (55 Stat. 728), as amended by the Act of July 7, 1943 (Public Law 114, Seventy-eighth Congress), in the grades therein prescribed, and assigned, respectively, to the Army Nurse Corps and Medical Department of the Army. All persons so appointed and assigned shall have authority in and about military hospitals as regards medical and sanitary matters and all other work within the scope of their professional duties next after other officers of the Medical Department and, except as above provided, shall exercise command only over those members of the Army of the United States specifically placed under their command. Members of the Army Nurse Corps so appointed and assigned shall not by acceptance of their appointments vacate their appointments in the Army Nurse Corps.

Sec. 2. All persons appointed and assigned as officers in the Army of the United States under the provisions of section 1 of this Act and their dependents and beneficiaries shall have all the rights, privileges, and benefits accorded in like cases to other persons appointed under the joint resolution of September 22, 1941 (55 Stat. 728), as amended, except where otherwise expressly provided in this or any subsequent Act.

Sec. 3. In addition to members of the Army Nurse Corps, any person appointed and assigned as an officer in the Army of the United States under the provisions of section 1 of this Act shall be eligible to be retired under any law providing for the retirement of members of the Army Nurse Corps, and any such person, including members of the Army Nurse Corps, who, while serving under such appointment and assignment, is so retired for disability shall receive retired pay at the rate of 75 per centum of the active duty base and longevity pay received by her while serving in the highest grade in which she served under any such appointment and assignment, and, notwithstanding any other provision of law, shall be placed upon the Army Nurse Corps retired list in such highest grade. Any member of the Army Nurse Corps retired between December 7, 1941, and the date of enactment of this Act for disability and any female dietitian or physical-therapy aide so retired between January 12, 1943, and the date of enactment of this Act shall receive, effective on the first day of the first month next following the date of enactment of this Act, retired pay at the rate of 75 per centum of the highest active duty base and longevity pay received by her while serving in the Army Nurse Corps or Medical Department of the Army, as the case may be, during the above-cited applicable period.

Sec. 4. In computing years of service for all purposes of members of the Army Nurse Corps appointed and assigned under the provisions of section 1 of this

Act there shall be credited active service in the Army Nurse Corps and in the Navy Nurse Corps, active service as a contract nurse prior to February 2, 1901, and service rendered pursuant to an appointment under this Act.

SEC. 5. In computing years of service for all purposes of female dietetic and physical-therapy personnel appointed and assigned under the provisions of section 1 of this Act there shall be credited all active full-time service (except as a student or apprentice) in the dietetic or physical-therapy categories rendered subsequent to April 6, 1917, as a civilian employee of the War Department, service rendered pursuant to an appointment as a female dietitian or physical-therapy aide under the provisions of the Act of December 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 1072), and service rendered pursuant to an appointment under this Act.

SEC. 6. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no woman appointed and assigned under the provisions of section 1 of this Act who is a member of the Army Nurse Corps or who has previously held an appointment as a female dietitian or physical-therapy aide under the provisions of the Act of December 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 1072), shall be entitled to any uniform allowance payable to officers of the Army of the United States. Any such woman who, either as a member of the Army Nurse Corps or a dietitian or physical-therapy aide, has not received a complete issue of uniforms, insignia, accessories, and equipment prescribed by regulations of the Secretary of War for persons in the respective categories may be issued the remainder of such prescribed articles, and any such woman who has heretofore or may hereafter receive such complete issue, or any part thereof, may retain such articles as her personal property.

SEC. 7. For the purpose of effectuating prompt and equitable appointments under section 1 of this Act of the personnel mentioned in the title of this Act who are on active duty on the date of enactment of this Act, the President is authorized to appoint, in commissioned grades corresponding to the relative rank held by such personnel on the effective date of the order of appointment, all or any part of such personnel by means of a blanket order without specifying the names of the personnel so appointed. Any person so appointed by such blanket order shall be deemed for all purposes to have accepted her appointment as an officer in the Army of the United States upon the effective date of such blanket order unless she shall expressly decline such appointment, and shall receive from such date the pay and allowances of the commissioned grade to which she was so appointed. No such person who, upon receiving an appointment in the Army of the United States, shall have subscribed to the oath of office required by section 1757, Revised Statutes, shall be required to renew such oath or to take a new oath upon her appointment as a commissioned officer, if her service in the Army of the United States after the taking of such oath shall have been continuous.

The CHAIRMAN. We have three witnesses this morning, and the first one on the list is Col. James R. Hudnall, Chief of Army Personnel for the Surgeon General's Department. Colonel, will you come around, please? Is Colonel Hudnall here?

Major CROSLAND. Mr. Chairman, Colonel Blanchfield, of the Army Nurse Corps, is here and will be the principal witness.

The CHAIRMAN. Col. Florence A. Blanchfield?

Major CROSLAND. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. All right, Colonel Blanchfield, will you come around please. She is Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps.

STATEMENT OF COL. FLORENCE A. BLANCHFIELD, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ARMY NURSE CORPS

The CHAIRMAN. Colonel Blanchfield, will you state your name and your position, and what your position is with respect to the pending bills relating to the Army Nurse Corps, and I would like to ask the members of the committee to please allow you to complete your statement and then you probably will be asked some questions by the members of the committee?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You may proceed.

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. My name is Florence A. Blanchfield. I am Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps, colonel, Army of the United States.

The bills under consideration are for the equalization of the provisions for the Nurse Corps with those now in effect for other members of the military service.

The bills under consideration are to give nurses or to provide nurses with the same advantages and status as other women of the services and the men of the service in officer rank.

We, of course, feel that it will be of great advantage to give nurses commissioned rank because of the fact that there have been two distinct laws, one governing the men of the military services and one the Nurse Corps.

The Nurse Corps laws are rather a carry-over from the days when they were civilians and so their provisions are very unlike those for the men of the services. With respect to pay, pay-in-grade, dependency allowances, leave, annual and sick, uniform allowances, retirement and in matters of discipline we have an entire set of regulations covering all of these for Army nurses. We think it is very desirable to bring them in as near as possible under the uniform laws now in existence for the men officers and women of the other services.

This bill will also eliminate or correct the confusion that has existed because of the nomenclature that has been used in setting up the grades for members of the Nurse Corps. We have at present a superintendent in the grade of colonel, assistant superintendents in the grade of lieutenant colonel, major, and captain, and chief nurses in the grade of first lieutenant. Now, these were grades that were set up before nurses had even relative rank and were carried over and add very much to the confusion of everyone who has to administer or who has anything to do with the administration of the corps.

The words "reserve nurse" have been a misnomer and has been declared frequently as being a grade in the corps. This has made for a great deal of confusion as to her real status, rights, and privileges. This bill will eliminate that and bring all nurses who are assigned to cover emergencies as emergency nurses under A. U. S., or whatever provision is made for other temporary personnel. The bill equalizes for the Army nurses as between the Army nurses and the women services all the things that I enumerated.

It will affect about 42,571 persons. In this number we include physical-therapy aides and dietitians in their present authorized strength.

The CHAIRMAN. Is that your complete statement, Colonel Blanchfield?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. I think it is highly desirable that some legislation be passed to effect these changes.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Thomason.

Mr. THOMASON. Then does this mean that this is temporary legislation of course only for the duration of the war and 6 months thereafter?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. I understand that H. R. 4445 is a temporary measure.

Mr. THOMASON. I have not had time or opportunity to read the new bill, H. R. 4445, but so far as benefits, privileges, and hospitalization and things of that sort are concerned does that leave you about where the WAC's are?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Yes, sir, exactly.

Mr. THOMASON. In order that we may get the whole picture, just what are your rights and privileges now?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. The nurses are appointed by the Surgeon General and their pay is according to Public Law 828, which was passed on December 22, 1942, which gives them the pay of officers without dependents, but froze their pay-in-grade.

Mr. THOMASON. At that point, Colonel, does this bill make any change in your pay status?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Yes, sir. It removes the restrictions placed by 828. If a nurse has a dependent no matter whether she is a widow with three children, or whether she has a dependent mother or what, her status, from the standpoint of dependency, is without dependency allowance. This will correct that.

Mr. THOMASON. What does this do about promotion or rank? Does it change your present status in that regard?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. No, sir; it is not touching that at all.

Mr. THOMASON. Your organization is entirely satisfied?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Yes, sir. The Secretary of War determines the number in grades according to the possible vacancies, and we consider that satisfactory.

Mr. THOMASON. There is no complaint or objection to your present set-up with regard to rank and grade?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. No, sir.

Mr. THOMASON. For the benefit of the record how many women in your organization now?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. We have approximately 40,000.

Mr. THOMASON. How many of them are officers, and can you give the general break-down on that?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Well, we have one colonel, about 59 lieutenant colonels, 135 majors approximately, and 2,640 lieutenants, some first lieutenants and the rest are second lieutenants. However, we have provisions now for promoting to the grade of first lieutenant second lieutenants to the extent of about 25 percent of the corps in the United States and 33 1/3 to 50 percent in the foreign theaters, if they meet the requirements for promotion.

Mr. THOMASON. Are you seeking further enlistments now?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. No, sir. At the present time we have reached the ceiling that has been set.

Mr. THOMASON. Does that meet the requirements of the Army, so far as you know?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Well, I think the Surgeon General has gone on record as saying that we need more than that adequately to cover the service.

Mr. THOMASON. I believe you said that the benefits such as pensions, hospitalization, and other benefits, too, are covered by this bill?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Yes, sir.

Mr. THOMASON. And are substantially the same as now provided for in your Women's Auxiliary Corps?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Yes, sir.

Mr. THOMASON. That is all.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Andrews, any questions?

Mr. ANDREWS. Colonel Blanchfield, before I ask you some detailed questions I want to clear up one thing. You are operating today under the act of 1942, as I recall, to enlarge the scope of the Nurse Corps except the grades. At that time your implement was around 16,000 for your full complement, whereas today you said it is 40,000?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Yes, sir.

Mr. ANDREWS. There was a provision at that time under which a nurse could not receive a certain promotion until she had served 1 year. Clear me up. Is that bill still in effect?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. No, sir; we have practically the same promotions.

Mr. ANDREWS. You did away with that?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Yes, sir.

Mr. ANDREWS. That is what I thought.

Now, as I understand it, Mrs. Bolton introduced a bill, H. R. 3761, upon which there is a report to the chairman. I would like to read it.

The CHAIRMAN. Just let it go in the record.

Mr. ANDREWS. I mean it clears up most of the questions.

The CHAIRMAN. All right.

Mr. ANDREWS (reading):

The War Department has given consideration to H. R. 3761, Seventy-eighth Congress, a bill "To provide for full military rank for members of the Army Nurse Corps, dietitians, and physical-therapy aides, and for other purposes."

Mr. KILDAY. What is the date of that?

Mr. ANDREWS. March 21. [Reading:]

The general purpose of this bill is to amend the National Defense Act and other provisions of existing law so as to give commissioned status to members of the Army Nurse Corps, female dietitians, and female physical-therapy aides and to make applicable to such persons, with certain exceptions, all provisions of law with respect to commissioned officers of the Army including those provisions of law conferring rights, privileges, immunities, and benefits upon commissioned personnel, their dependents, and beneficiaries.

The first section of the act of December 22, 1942 (Public Law 828, 77th Cong.), provides that "during the present war and for 6 months thereafter, the members of the Army Nurse Corps shall have relative rank and receive pay and money allowances for subsistence and rental of quarters, and mileage and other travel allowances, as now or hereafter provided by law, for commissioned officers, without dependents, of the Regular Army in the sixth to the first pay periods, respectively." Section 2 of that act contains similar provisions with respect to female dietitians and physical-therapy personnel (exclusive of students and apprentices). Army Regulations (par. 7c, Changes No. 2, AR 600-15, Dec. 19, 1941, dated Mar. 16, 1943) prescribe that Army nurses and Medical Department dietitians and physical therapy aides will have the same rank, precedence, rights, and privileges as commissioned officers of corresponding grades.

The War Department would favor legislation to give members of the Army Nurse Corps, female dietitians, and female physical-therapy aide personnel, for the duration of the present war, entitlement to all of the allowances, rights, and privileges to which commissioned officers, including officers of the Women's Army Corps, may be entitled; but it does not consider that the present would be an appropriate time to enact permanent legislation affecting the peace-time organization of the Army. The War Department fully appreciates the difficulties and inequities from which the mentioned personnel suffer under existing law, and which H. R. 3761 is intended to correct. It would interpose no objection to the enactment of temporary legislation, providing temporary commissioned status with accompanying rights, privileges, and benefits to members of the Army Nurse Corps, female dietitians, and female physical-therapy aides.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Mrs. Bolton's H. R. 4445 is in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary of War, dated March 21, 1944, is that correct?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. That is my understanding, sir.

Mr. ANDREWS. Is what?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. That is the way I understand it, sir.

Mr. ANDREWS. Do you understand H. R. 4445 exactly meets the recommendations of this letter, or are there additional amendments which you desire, assuming it is to be temporary and not permanent?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Yes, sir; that bill covers or equalizes all of the privileges as between the other women services and the Nurse Corps.

Mr. ANDREWS. Does it conform with and is it in agreement with the opinion of the Surgeon General?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Well, we go along with the Surgeon General, you know.

Mr. ANDREWS. Of course; as to the Surgeon General's office, I was just wondering if they approve the bill as it is now?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. We have concurred with the Surgeon General's office that H. R. 4445 is very desirable as a temporary measure.

Mr. ANDREWS. I have nothing further.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Sparkman.

Mr. SPARKMAN. May I see that?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Colonel Blanchfield, did you prepare the report on these bills? Is that part of your office?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. The bills are usually submitted to my office for comment, Mr. Sparkman.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Who prepared the report, the letter?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. I think that was done in General Lull's office.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Is there a representative of his office here?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Who is that?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Colonel Hudnall.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Who?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Colonel Hudnall.

The CHAIRMAN. Hudnall?

Mr. SPARKMAN. I will save my questions for him.

The CHAIRMAN. All right, sir. Any further questions on this?

Mr. KILDAY. No, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ARENDS. May I ask Colonel Blanchfield a question?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENDS. What is the age bracket of nurses at the present time?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. In the military service?

Mr. ARENDS. Yes.

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Up to 45. They are disqualified the day they are 45.

Mr. ARENDS. Forty-five?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Yes, sir; that is temporary.

Mr. ARENDS. I mean minimum age. What is the minimum age?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. The minimum age we have not exactly stated. We take them as soon as they are graduate registered nurses. Some States require them to be 21. Others allow them to register as soon as they are graduates.

Mr. ARENDS. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. THOMASON. Mr. Chairman, may I ask right there, how do you determine promotions? Who determines them and how?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. The nurses' immediate chief nurse makes a recommendation for promotion to the next higher grade. That recommendation is concurred in by the nurses's immediate commanding officer. That goes up through N personnel in the service command concerned to the Surgeon General's office where there is a promotion board set up to go over these recommendations, and upon concurrence of the members of the board or the majority of the members of the board the nurse is promoted.

Mr. THOMASON. What is your sustenance allowance now?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Just the same as other officers, 70 cents a day.

Mr. THOMASON. And you get a rent allowance now?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Yes, sir; according to the grade of an officer without dependents.

Mr. THOMASON. Do you get something extra for overseas service?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Yes, sir; just the same as all officers.

Mr. THOMASON. Ten percent?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Ten percent; yes, sir.

Mr. THOMASON. That is all.

The CHAIRMAN. Any other questions, Mr. Elston?

Mr. ELSTON. Colonel, while you concur with the War Department so far as H. R. 4445 is concerned, do you not feel also that there would be some advantages in having permanent rank?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Of course, we considered the bill as a permanent measure from the beginning because of the fact that we felt that inasmuch as the Army Nurse Corps was a permanent part of the military services and had been for 40 years that it would not be considered feasible to give them commissioned rank just for the duration and 6 months. Of course, at the time that this bill was set up I had no knowledge that there was an over-all bill under consideration for the Army, but we feel that unless we get permanent legislation by the time the war is over and 6 months thereafter that it is going to very adversely affect our Nurse Corps from the standpoint of the quality or the qualifications of the nurses who may be available for assignment in the Army, unless we can hold out the Army nursing service as a career service we are going to have to take those who might be available rather than those we would care to have as members.

Mr. ELSTON. So that while H. R. 4445 is acceptable you prefer the first bill introduced by Mrs. Bolton to create a permanent Nurse Corps in the Medical Department?

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Well, you are kind of putting me on the spot.

Mr. ELSTON. After all, we want to know.

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. Of course, I have stated what I thought we should have, but I should also like to make it clear that we go along with the Surgeon General, and he has indicated that he wishes to go along with the War Department on this, at the same time giving us assurances that when the over-all bill comes up that the nurses will be taken care of.

Mr. ELSTON. Well, the over-all bill is here now as I understand it.

Mr. SPARKMAN. How can he give such assurances?

Mr. ELSTON. H. R. 3761 is the over-all bill. It is here today just as much as H. R. 4445. That is why I am asking you these questions.

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. I did not know the over-all was in, of course, and I did not know there was one under consideration at the time that we initiated the first movement on this bill in the Surgeon General's office. It was with the full knowledge and concurrence of the Surgeon General that we prepared the permanent bill.

Mr. ELSTON. Let us get it in the record just what it is that the Surgeon General promises you in the future.

Colonel BLANCHFIELD. I presume I would be stating it clearly when I say when the over-all bill goes in that he will again recommend commissioned rank as a permanent measure for nurses. That is my understanding.

Mr. ELSTON. Well, I do not quite understand if he is willing to recommend it he is not willing to recommend it now.

Lieutenant Colonel HAUCK. Mr. Chairman, might I interpose a remark at this point?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, sir.

Lieutenant Colonel HAUCK. The over-all bill which Colonel Blanchfield refers to, Mr. Elston, is the over-all reorganization of the permanent Military Establishment.

Mr. ELSTON. I see.

Lieutenant Colonel HAUCK. The War Department objected to H. R. 3761, in a general sense as it does not desire piecemeal permanent legislation at this time. We prefer to wait until a later date, at which time we can submit proposals for the over-all peacetime reorganization of the Military Establishment.

Mr. ELSTON. But when the over-all bill does come in it would necessarily contain the provisions of H. R. 3761?

Lieutenant Colonel HAUCK. Or similar provisions.

Mr. ELSTON. Practically.

The CHAIRMAN. Is that all, Mr. Elston?

Mr. ELSTON. Yes; that is all.

The CHAIRMAN. Doctor Fenton, any questions?

Mr. FENTON. No.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Johnson?

Mr. JOHNSON. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Durham?

Mr. DURHAM. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Colonel Blanchfield.

Gentlemen, Representative Bolton is here, and will you come around, Mrs. Bolton? Would you like to make a statement?

STATEMENT OF HON. FRANCES P. BOLTON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OHIO

Mrs. BOLTON. I would like very much to make a statement.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you have a written statement?

Mrs. BOLTON. I have a written statement, but I would prefer to give it, please, if I may.

The CHAIRMAN. All right, you may proceed with your statement, and the committee will reserve questions until you complete your statement.

Mrs. BOLTON. I want to express to you first of all my very sincere appreciation for the privilege of coming before you to present the problem which confronts the nursing groups in the armed forces. We have had great difficulty due to the fact that the nurse has always been treated somewhat as a stepchild all along the line, both in civilian life and in military life. As you all know, a great many people have the feeling that it is "men and women and nurses," and that is very much accentuated by her status in the Army.

In 1901 the Army Nurse Corps was made an integral part of the organization of the United States Army. It was under the Surgeon General entirely, and was administered from his office.

During the last war, 1917 and 1918, I had very close contacts with the Army. I had very close contacts with the Army nurses. I was instrumental in persuading the Secretary of War to use the method of establishing the Army School of Nursing in order to increase the nursing personnel. During that period it was found that in the hospitals, orderlies were not willing to take orders except from someone evidently their superior, and they considered nurses not their superiors. To take the situation workable in our Army hospitals relative rank was given. Nobody knew exactly how it would work. Nobody knew exactly how much it would do to meet the problem.

Mr. THOMASON. Will you pardon me, Mrs. Bolton?

Mrs. BOLTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. THOMASON. What do you mean by "relative rank"?

Mrs. BOLTON. The status the nurse is under today. All she has is relative rank—a bar on her shoulder. The corps consists of one colonel, a few majors, captains, and first lieutenants—the rank and file are second lieutenants. Relative rank leaves it entirely to the commanding officer to say whether nurses shall be accepted as officers or not. Their status is in the hands of the commanding officers of camps and posts and hospitals.

Mr. JOHNSON. What specific thing does she not get that the man officer gets?

Mrs. BOLTON. Oh, a great many things. I would rather you have the details of that from the corps itself, Mr. Johnson. But she does not have her commission. She does not rate as an officer. The pay also has been different until just about a year ago. And even now she has the pay of an officer without dependents.

Mr. JOHNSON. You mean a first lieutenant nurse does not have a commission like a lieutenant in the Army?

Mrs. BOLTON. No, sir.

Mr. JOHNSON. What paper does she get so she will know she is a first lieutenant, just a letter?

Mrs. BOLTON. I do not know what she gets. I would like to ask the Army Nurse Corps.

Mr. JOHNSON. You mean they are not commissioned officers?

Mrs. BOLTON. They are not commissioned officers at all. That is the point of my bill.

The CHAIRMAN. All right, Mrs. Bolton.

Mrs. BOLTON. And the matter has been one of confusion. When the corps was administered from the central point of the Surgeon Gen-

eral's office those there understood the problem and the confusion was at a minimum. But with the decentralization of the administration difficulties have multiplied and the increase of paper work and the increase of necessity for constant correction has been very great. Out in the field perhaps some woman is serving in the fourth section as lieutenant so and so and she gets a lieutenant travel allowance, but she is not a real lieutenant at all she has only a relative rank. Some of her rating comes under civilian procedure and some come under the Army. It is a very confusing situation, particularly with this tremendous increase of nurses.

Now, may I say at this point I want to emphasize what Colonel Blanchfield said. The Army Nurse Corps is not a temporary organization in the Army as are the WAC's. They are a permanent part of the Army and they have so been since 1901. They have had no adequate status and the situation is somewhat as I have explained.

Now, with that as a background may I proceed? I want to give you a little something of the history of the two bills which bear my name which you have before you.

On December 1, 1943, at the request of the American Nurses Association I introduced H. R. 3761, a bill to provide for full military rank for members of the Army Nurse Corps, dietitians, physical-therapy aides, and for other purposes.

After something over 4 months the War Department reported adversely on the bill largely because it requested permanency of rank. Mr. Andrews has read the report into this record. I do not need to go into that.

I then introduced on March 21, 1944, H. R. 4445, so that you might have before you a workable substitute which met the War Department's attitude and did not leave out very important parts of the changes that should be made if nurses are commissioned even temporarily. I want to make it very clear that this second bill does not meet the real needs of the Army Nurse Corps, although it would correct the more blatant discriminations against the nurses and the important groups of dietitians and physical-therapy aides.

You will readily see, as you read it, that the thinking upon which it is based rests upon the assumption that these services are similar to the newly established women's services which are temporary in nature, when in reality nurses have been a part of the United States Army for over 40 years.

Should you decide not to venture beyond the War Department's point of view and prefer to use H. R. 4445 rather than the more carefully studied H. R. 3761 with the suggested changes, there are two slight additions that should be made to this bill for temporary rank, notations which I will include in my testimony at this point. These have to do with methods of pay and taking care of difficulties that have developed in the General Accounting Office.

They are as follows:

NECESSARY ADDITIONS TO H. R. 4445

MEMORANDUM OF CHANGES REQUIRED IN H. R. 4445 IF THE BILL IS RETAINED AS A MEASURE PROVIDING TEMPORARY RANK

1. On page 3, line 11, following the words "Army Nurse Corps" there should be inserted the following words: "but based upon pay as set out in act of December 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 1072)."

2. There should be an additional provision to the bill to take care of a difficulty with the General Accounting Office concerning pay to first duty station. The wording of this provision is suggested as follows:

"SEC. 8. Mileage and other travel allowances to first duty station payable to officers commissioned from civilian life in the Army of the United States shall be allowed to nurses, dietitians and physical-therapy aides who entered the armed forces since December 22, 1942, and payments which have been made in accord herewith are confirmed. From the effective date of this act nurses, dietitians, and physical-therapy aides who receive commissions as officers from civilian life will be entitled to mileage and other travel allowances to first duty station payable to officers commissioned from civilian life in the Medical Department of the Army."

They are most simple and I am sure you would accept them if that is as far as you feel you care to go.

But I do know this about the Military Affairs Committee: I do know that you have your own opinions. I do know that you are not "yes" men to the War Department. I do know and I do believe that your judgments have been vindicated when you have differed from the War Department. Therefore, it is my earnest hope that in your wisdom you will wish to consider primarily H. R. 3761 with the corrections I am submitting today, and that this is the bill you will report out.

As you know, this hearing was to have been held on Tuesday next, and I would have had everything in adequate shape for this hearing, gentlemen, but I have been a little short on time so that I have it very less well arranged, but I am sure you will not mind that.

The CHAIRMAN. Mrs. Bolton, let the Chair make this explanation—

Mrs. BOLTON (interposing). I am happy it is so, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (continuing). We have had some interference here by another committee by being generous to them in off time by loaning them the services of our committee room, and today was a day they were not working. I am anxious to dispose of this matter, and that is the reason I advanced it.

Mrs. BOLTON. I am simply delighted you did, and I am merely regretting that material is not in better shape.

The CHAIRMAN. I will tell you what you could do, if you are agreeable. We will be glad to have you file your statement, as we have some bills to consider in executive session, and then supplement it by what you want to say.

Mrs. BOLTON. I have just two or three pages.

The CHAIRMAN. Go right ahead.

Mrs. BOLTON. I won't go into the details of the bill because that will be presented to you.

The CHAIRMAN. All right.

Mrs. BOLTON. At this point it will be pertinent to give you a broader aspect of this whole matter than has been given you so far.

The Army Nurse Corps, as I have said previously, has been a part of the organization of the United States Army since 1901. It has proved itself a necessary part. It has been shown that there is at all times tremendous need to have the membership of the corps made up of the very finest type of nurses. Unless we can offer these women a duly recognized and dignified position with assured status, we cannot expect to attract the type we all want. If there is no more than temporary action now it is quite conceivable—and I want to press this point home—even probable, that when the war is over and this tremendous reorganization of the Army occurs there might well be an

interval period when the Nurse Corps because of unavoidably delayed action would automatically go back to its present status of being neither fish, flesh, nor fowl. Should such a thing happen it would be too much to expect the personnel to continue to be of the highest type. I repeat, if we cannot offer to Army nurses a dignified and assured place in the Army we cannot expect to have the quality essential to the long years that lie ahead. Such a situation can readily be avoided by wise and far-seeing action now.

With this background permit me to take up somewhat in detail my original bill, H. R. 3761, which I introduced on December 1, 1943. This bill is intended to clarify the position in the Medical Department of the members of the Army Nurse Corps, physical-therapy aides, and dietitians, by granting them commissioned rank as officers in the Military Establishment.

It provides that the Army Nurse Corps, which consists of one superintendent who shall be a colonel, and such officers of lower rank as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War. It provides for the appointment of other officers of lower rank than colonel in the Army of the United States under the provisions of the joint resolution of September 22, 1941 (55 Stat. 728), who may be assigned to the Army Nurse Corps.

You will see that the bill provides for a physical therapy and dietetic personnel, each with a director having the rank of major. It provides further that those receiving appointments to these services subsequent to the act of September 22, 1941, shall receive commissions in the Army of the United States, though it very definitely says that it does not prevent certain commissions being given in the United States Army if the Secretary of War so determines. Provisions governing the computation of services, pay, and other such details have been carefully studied and every effort made to put them on a sound basis.

It provides various things that are really imperative to adequate care of our sick by a group of women of high morale and fine types.

May I say in closing that I have the highest respect for the opinions of the War Department. I recognize that much serious study and thought has been given to this problem, but I fear they have been confused into believing this to be "just another woman's corps." It is not; it is an old Army corps. I confess that I cannot see how it could complicate the anticipated reorganization plans after the war to give long-delayed and very necessary recognition now to a permanent corps of the Army, and I do see the far-reaching implications of temporary action all too clearly. If one corps, the Air Corps, can be changed the Nurse Corps can be changed.

You have undoubtedly talked with many boys back from the front, both in and out of hospitals. I am quite certain they will have said to you, as they have to me, "Nothing is too much to do for the nurses."

I cannot tell you with what hope I leave these bills for your wise consideration. I feel certain that if you really weigh all the problems and implications involved you will want to make it possible for the Army Nurse Corps to attract women who will demonstrate that they are first of all, a high type of American womanhood; secondly, the finest possible nurses; thirdly, loyal disciplined officers of the Army.

The nurses of the country and the far-reaching women's organizations look to you to recognize the principles of justice and good sense

that are involved. They are wholeheartedly behind the principle of the permanent rank measure, H. R. 3761. That is their bill. They have expressed their willingness to support H. R. 4445, but only if that is all you are willing to bring out of your deliberations. They know it is no more than a stop gap and they will not leave it at that. So it is my hope, as it is the hope of our soldiers, of the nursing profession, and the women of the Army who are deeply interested in this necessary provision for these women now so desperately needed by men, that this honorable committee will consider these measures with broad vision and real understanding and that the final determination will be to bring out H. R. 3761 as revised and corrected.

I am submitting a revised copy of H. R. 3761 which is as follows:

[H. R. 3761, 78th Cong., 1st sess.]

A BILL To provide for full military rank for members of the Army Nurse Corps, dietitians, and physical-therapy aides, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be in the Medical Department of the Army an Army Nurse Corps, consisting of female personnel.

SEC. 2. (a) The Army Nurse Corps shall consist of one superintendent who shall be a colonel, and such other officers of lower rank as the Secretary of War may prescribe, who shall be citizens of the United States and shall have such education and training and shall have passed such moral, mental, and physical examination as shall be prescribed by the Surgeon General. Such other officers of lower rank than colonel as the Secretary of War may prescribe may also be appointed in the Army of the United States, under the provisions of the joint resolution of September 22, 1941 (55 Stat. 728), and assigned to the Army Nurse Corps. Nothing contained in this Act shall prohibit appointments in the Army Nurse Corps, as vacancies may exist therein, of officers directly from civilian life or from those appointed in the Army of the United States and assigned to the Army Nurse Corps.

(b) The superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps on the date this Act takes effect shall receive a commission as colonel in the Army Nurse Corps, as hereby constituted. All other members (other than Reserve nurses) of such corps on the date this Act takes effect shall receive commissions as officers in the Army Nurse Corps, as hereby constituted, with permanent ranks corresponding to the respective permanent relative ranks held by them on such date. Promotions to higher permanent ranks will be determined by position vacancies as authorized by the Secretary of War. All temporary ranks held by members of the Army Nurse Corps on the date this Act takes effect shall be continued to be held by them for the duration of the present war and 6 months thereafter: *Provided however*, That nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to prohibit promotions or demotions to other temporary ranks.

(c) All other members (Reserve nurses) of the Army Nurse Corps on the date this Act takes effect shall receive commissions as officers in the Army of the United States under the provisions of the joint resolution of September 22, 1941 (55 Stat. 728), with ranks corresponding to the respective relative ranks held by them on such date and shall be assigned to the Army Nurse Corps as hereby constituted.

SEC. 3 (a) There shall be included in the Medical Department of the Army such female dietetic and physical-therapy personnel (exclusive of students and apprentices) as the Secretary of War may prescribe, who shall be citizens of the United States and shall have such training and shall have passed such moral, mental, and physical examination as shall be prescribed by the Surgeon General. A director of dietitians and a director of physical-therapy aides, each of whom shall be a major, and such other officers of lower rank as the Secretary of War may prescribe and who were employees of the Medical Department at large prior to and including the passage of the joint resolution of September 22, 1941 (55 Stat. 728), shall be made members of the permanent Military Establishment. Those appointed subsequent to September 22, 1941, shall receive commissions in the Army of the United States.

(b) The director of dietitians and the director of physical therapy aides and all dietitians and all physical-therapy aides who were employees of the Medical Department prior to September 22, 1941, and who, on the date this Act takes effect, hold the relative ranks of commissioned officers shall receive commissions as officers in the Regular Establishment according to current policies as established by the Secretary of War and shall be assigned to the Medical Department. Those appointed subsequent to September 22, 1941, shall receive commissions in the Army of the United States under the provisions of the joint resolution of September 22, 1941 (55 Stat. 728), with the rank corresponding to the respective relative ranks held by them on such date and shall be assigned to the Medical Department. Nothing contained in this Act shall prohibit the commissioning of dietitians and physical-therapy aides in the United States Army for assignment to the Medical Department to fill vacancies as they may exist or to otherwise fulfill the needs for officers of permanent rank as determined by the Secretary of War.

SEC. 4. Except as otherwise expressly provided by this Act, all provisions of law with respect to commissioned officers of the Army, including those provisions of law conferring rights, privileges, immunities, and benefits upon commissioned personnel, their dependents and beneficiaries, shall apply to officers appointed hereunder in the Army Nurse Corps or in the Army of the United States.

SEC. 5. In addition to officers in the Army Nurse Corps, any person appointed and assigned as an officer in the Army of the United States under the provisions of sections 2 and 3 of this Act shall be eligible to be retired under any law providing for the retirement of members of the Army Nurse Corps, and any such person, including officers in the Army Nurse Corps, who, while serving under such appointment and assignment, is so retired for disability shall receive retired pay at the rate of 75 per centum of the active duty base and longevity pay received by her while serving in the highest rank in which she served under any such appointment and assignment, and, notwithstanding any other provision of law, shall be placed upon the Army Nurse Corps retired list in such highest rank. Any member of the Army Nurse Corps retired prior to the date of enactment of this Act for disability and any female dietitian or physical-therapy aide so retired between January 12, 1943, and the date of enactment of this Act shall receive, effective on the first day of the first month next following the date of enactment of this Act, retired pay at the rate of 75 per centum of the highest active duty base and longevity pay received by her while serving in the Army Nurse Corps or Medical Department of the Army, as the case may be, during the above-cited applicable period.

SEC. 6. (a) In computing, for all purposes, service of officers appointed in the Army Nurse Corps and officers appointed in the Army of the United States and assigned to the Army Nurse Corps, there shall be credited active service in the Army Nurse Corps, as heretofore and hereby constituted, and in the Navy Nurse Corps service as a Reserve nurse on active duty since February 2, 1901, and service rendered pursuant to an appointment under this Act.

(b) In computing, for all purposes, service of dietitians and physical-therapy aides, there shall be credited all active full-time service (except service as a student or apprentice) in the dietetic or physical-therapy categories rendered subsequent to April 6, 1917, as a civilian employee of the War Department service rendered as a dietitian or physical-therapy aide under the provisions of the Act approved December 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 1072), and services rendered pursuant to an appointment under this Act.

SEC. 7. With respect to medical, sanitary, dietary and physical therapy matters and all other work within the line of their professional duties, officers appointed hereunder in the Army Nurse Corps or in the Army of the United States shall have authority in and about military hospitals next after the other officers of the Medical Department, and shall exercise command over such other personnel of the Army as may be specifically assigned to duty under them.

SEC. 8. The authority appointing a court martial for the trial of an officer appointed hereunder in the Army Nurse Corps or in the Army of the United States shall, whenever practicable, detail one or more other officers so appointed to serve on the court.

SEC. 9. When an officer appointed hereunder in the Army Nurse Corps or in the Army of the United States has attained the age of fifty-five years or is found by a board of medical officers to have become disabled in line of duty (unless there is a suitable administrative or executive position for which she is qualified), she shall be placed on the retired list of the Army with the rank held by her at the time of her retirement.

SEC. 10. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person appointed and assigned under the provisions of sections 2 (b), 2 (c), and 3 (b) of this Act who is a member of the Army Nurse Corps or who has previously held an appointment as a female dietitian or physical-therapy aide under the provisions of the Act of December 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 1072), shall be entitled to any uniform allowance payable to officers of the Army of the United States. Any such person who, either as a member of the Army Nurse Corps or a dietitian or physical-therapy aide, has not received a complete issue of uniforms, insignia, accessories, and equipment prescribed by regulations of the Secretary of War for persons in the respective categories may be issued the remainder of such prescribed articles, and any such person who has heretofore or may hereafter receive such complete issue, or any part thereof, may retain such articles as her personal property.

SEC. 11. For the purpose of effectuating prompt and equitable appointments under sections 2 and 3 (b) of this Act of the personnel mentioned in the title of this Act who are on active duty or who are prisoners of war or otherwise detained by the enemy on the date of enactment of this Act, the President is authorized to appoint personnel in commissioned ranks as provided in sections 2 and 3 (b) of this Act on the effective date of the order of appointment by means of a blanket order or orders without specifying the names of the personnel so appointed. Any person so appointed by such blanket order or orders shall be deemed for all purposes to have accepted her appointment as an officer in the Army Nurse Corps or in the Army of the United States upon the effective date of such blanket order unless she shall expressly decline such appointment, and shall receive from such date the pay and allowances of the commissioned rank to which she was so appointed. No such person who, upon receiving an appointment, shall have subscribed to the oath of office required by section 1757, Revised Statutes, shall be required to renew such oath or to take a new oath upon her appointment as a commissioned officer, if her service after the taking of such oath shall have been continuous.

SEC. 12. The Secretary of War is authorized to use appropriations available to the Military Establishment to carry into effect the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 13. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with the provisions of this Act are repealed, except that the Act entitled "An Act to increase the pay and allowances of members of the Army Nurse Corps, and for other purposes", approved December 22, 1942, shall remain in effect solely to the extent necessary to determine in accordance with said Act the relative rank and pay and allowances of technical and professional female personnel in categories required for duty outside the continental United States and of the superintendent and members of the Navy Nurse Corps.

SEC. 14. Mileage and other travel allowances to first duty station payable to officers commissioned from civilian life in the Army of the United States shall be allowed to nurses, dietitians, and physical-therapy aides who entered the armed forces since December 22, 1942, and payments which have been made in accord herewith are confirmed. From the effective date of this Act nurses, dietitians, and physical-therapy aides who receive commissions as officers from civilian life will be entitled to mileage and other travel allowances to first duty station payable to officers commissioned from civilian life in the Medical Department of the Army.

SEC. 15. On and after the effective date of this Act retired members of the Army Nurse Corps retired prior to December 7, 1941, shall have their retired pay computed as now authorized by law on the basis of pay provided in the Act of December 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 1072).

SEC. 16. This Act shall take effect _____ days after the date of its enactment.

Mrs. BOLTON. There is just one other point I want to be sure is very clear in your minds: The Army Nurse Corps is now authorized to a size of about 1,800 nurses with the colonel at the top. That is the Regular Corps which is an integral part of the Army. The very large number of nurses, the 35,000 to 40,000, are in the same category as WAC's—they are in for the duration and 6 months thereafter. They are in the Army of the United States. Automatically, therefore, their service to the country ends 6 months after the war. I think it would be unfortunate if you proceeded in the consideration of these bills

with the idea that you are increasing the permanent corps to 40,000 permanent, endlessly permanent, officers. The Army Nurse Corps will be reduced as rapidly as possible when the Army is reduced. The Regular Army Nurse Corps must continue and it is specially because of that fact that I feel so strongly that the American Nurses Association was very justified in asking to have a bill presented that would give permanent rank. They recognize, just as I hope you do, that the vast number of nurses that we are constantly recruiting do not stay in the Regular Army. I repeat that, they are the Army of the United States. When that goes out the Army nurses belonging to it go out too.

I leave with you the few copies of H. R. 3761 as changed to meet and clarify the problems of the Army nurses that I have had time to prepare with the earnest hope that you will let nothing keep you from a very broad and wise consideration of all that is involved because it is far more than just a little superficial matter that can be righted by little action and temporarily.

I thank you again, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for permitting me to present this testimony.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Mr. DURHAM. Mr. Chairman, and Mrs. Bolton, I want to ask you just one question. Of course, your bill, H. R. 4445, and the bill you presented—what is the number of that?

Mrs. BOLTON. H. R. 3761.

Mr. DURHAM. It transfers the whole 1,800 from the Army of the United States over to the United States Army?

Mrs. BOLTON. Oh, no. They are still in the Army of the United States. It does not change them at all.

Mr. DURHAM. It does not change them at all?

Mrs. BOLTON. Oh, no. And the reason I offered H. R. 4445 was simply that you might have as good a bill as it was possible to construct for the temporary measure.

Mr. FENTON. Mr. Chairman, I was just wondering whether Mrs. Bolton cared to comment on the dietitians and physical-therapy there being embraced on this bill?

Mrs. BOLTON. Yes, sir; I would be very happy to, because I think that is not very clearly understood. In the old days when the Army Nurse Corps was established we did not have dietitians and physical-therapy aides. That service has grown up in the civilian hospitals and, naturally, has entered into the Army hospitals as well as the Navy hospitals. They have been neither fish, flesh, nor fowl, and they do have a very difficult existence. It seems to us, to me particularly because I have been in this work a very long time and I know the Army Nurse Corps and their problems very well.

The CHAIRMAN. You have not been in it very long.

Mrs. BOLTON. I thank you, sir. Somehow the last war seems a long time ago. It is going to be essential that there be regular physical-therapists and a small number of regular dietitians in the make-up of the Army Medical Department, and to me it would be a great mistake if there was not the same privilege, position, and dignity given to them at this moment as we propose to give the nurses. They are new, generally speaking, but we have had them a good many years. When the Army Nurse Corps came into being in 1901 there were no

such services. Now that they do exist it would seem only right that they should be given the respect and dignity they richly deserve.

Mr. ELSTON. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Mrs. Bolton a question.

The CHAIRMAN. Very well.

Mr. ELSTON. I am very much impressed with your argument that if we do not enact permanent legislation at this time there might be a dangerous interval after the war and before Congress has an opportunity to pass on a permanent reorganization plan. We do not know as we sit here today that Congress will ever adopt a permanent reorganization plan.

Mrs. BOLTON. No, we do not.

Mr. ELSTON. While the war is running Congress has a certain feeling which may not exist when the wars are over. It seems to me it would easier even if we do have that plan and Congress adopts it than to enact temporary legislation and then turn it into the plan for permanent legislation, and the fact of that interval you say would be dangerous.

Mrs. BOLTON. If I may comment on what you say, Mr. Elston, it is very important and I am deeply disturbed over the thought that there might be a temporary measure enacted.

Mr. ELSTON. I think there are a great many people who do not know today that the Army nurses do not receive commissions the same as people in the Army.

Mrs. BOLTON. So many medical people in the Army, so many of the officers, had no idea nurses did not have commissioned rank.

Mr. ELSTON. And as a matter of fact they do not have the same position in the Army that the WAC's have?

Mrs. BOLTON. Oh, no.

Mr. ELSTON. They are in the Army and the nurses are not?

Mrs. BOLTON. Yes; they are there and have been for 40 years, but without the status such as the WAC's have.

Mr. DURHAM. Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question?

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Durham.

Mr. DURHAM. Mrs. Bolton, I believe our permanent Army was based on 286,000 at the beginning of the war?

Mrs. BOLTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. DURHAM. And of course you are amending the National Defense Act in this bill?

Mrs. BOLTON. Yes.

Mr. DURHAM. Now, does this 1,800 fit into this kind of bill, do you know?

Mrs. BOLTON. That is, permanently?

Mr. DURHAM. That is including commissions?

Mrs. BOLTON. No; that is not including commissions.

Mr. DURHAM. Not all of them, but that would be the top measure?

Mrs. BOLTON. No, because the commissions that would go to a nurse automatically would be a commission in the Army of the United States. She is not in the United States Army. When that Army is demobilized—

Mr. DURHAM (interposing). What I am trying to get at is the number you are proposing would fit into the permanent organization of the Army?

Mrs. BOLTON. Mr. Durham, may I make clear that I am not proposing any figure.

Mr. DURHAM. You are not?

Mrs. BOLTON. No. When I use the figure 1,875, that is the authorized strength for the Regular Army for peacetime. That answers your question as to the 286,000 soldiers.

Mr. DURHAM. Of course, a great many would not qualify under educational requirements?

Mrs. BOLTON. Oh, yes; they all qualify.

Mr. DURHAM. They all qualify?

Mrs. BOLTON. Yes; they are not accepted for Army service if they do not measure up from an educational standpoint. As I say, they are just like the Army Air Forces, which have been suddenly expanded into large numbers. The nurses have been expanded too. But these 35,000 or 40,000 are in the Army of the United States and will be demobilized as part of that Army.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Elston.

Mr. ELSTON. Just one other thing, Mrs. Bolton. When the war is over, the best material in the world for the Army will be the nurses who have seen service?

Mrs. BOLTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. ELSTON. If we do not have permanent legislation we really have not anything to hold out to them to induce them to remain in the Army?

Mrs. BOLTON. Not a thing.

Mr. ELSTON. A mere promise from the Surgeon General would not be an inducement?

Mrs. BOLTON. They have heard a great many promises.

Mr. ELSTON. However well-intentioned he is, he is subject to orders, or he might die, and the next Surgeon General might have an entirely different viewpoint?

Mrs. BOLTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. ELSTON. So the only safe course is to have permanent legislation to offer nurses who want to remain in the service?

Mrs. BOLTON. Certainly.

Mr. ELSTON. But if there was nothing to hold out to them there would be no inducement?

Mrs. BOLTON. You have drawn the picture very well.

Mr. DURHAM. What about the present status?

Mrs. BOLTON. I can assure you it makes a very real problem in our recruitment.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Mrs. Bolton.

We have a witness here from the Surgeon General's office, Lt. Col. James R. Hudnall. Will you come around, Colonel, and tell us about this legislation? Do you have a prepared statement?

STATEMENT OF LT. COL. JAMES R. HUDNALL, CHIEF OF ARMY PERSONNEL, SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE, UNITED STATES ARMY

Colonel HUDNALL. No, sir; I have no prepared statement.

The CHAIRMAN. All right, you can proceed.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if you can have those amendments printed in the bill so we can all see what they are like.

Mrs. BOLTON. I would be glad to see you have a copy of the amendments.

Mr. ANDREWS. Do they change the report which is favorable to H. R. 4445?

Mrs. BOLTON. The amendments I am speaking of are amendments to H. R. 3761.

Mr. ANDREWS. You go back to H. R. 3761?

Mrs. BOLTON. That is the bill the nurses want and the one we want.

The CHAIRMAN. That is before us?

Mrs. BOLTON. That is my original bill. The other one is to have so much if the committee refuses the permanent idea.

The CHAIRMAN. You leave a copy with the amendments with the clerk, please?

Mrs. BOLTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. THOMASON. Do I understand the amendment is now proposed to make it permanent legislation?

Mrs. BOLTON. It is not a matter of changing that. H. R. 3761 is a permanent bill.

Mr. THOMASON. The Secretary of War only makes it a temporary bill. Do you propose it as permanent?

Mrs. BOLTON. I propose to this committee that they not be "yes" men for the War Department. We women could not be satisfied with the War Department verdict—so I leave two bills with you for I wanted you to have the best I could prepare with both points of view.

Colonel HUDNALL. The bills and the status of the Army Nurse Corps with relation to the Medical Department have been studied in the Surgeon General's office, and it is felt by the Surgeon General that no permanent legislation should be passed at this time. The temporary legislation is offered to cover the inequities that have occurred in the past.

That is all I have on that service.

The CHAIRMAN. In other words, there is a study under way in the Surgeon General's Department and this temporary suggestion that they make here, or rather the suggestion for temporary legislation is the result of that idea?

Colonel HUDNALL. Yes, sir; and it is entirely satisfactory.

The CHAIRMAN. And you tell the committee that the temporary proposal would remedy the difficulties that the Nurse Corps is experiencing now and equalize them with other like ranks in the armed services?

Colonel HUDNALL. That is right.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. Any questions on this side? Mr. Sparkman.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Colonel, with reference to the temporary feature which you recommend has most of the legislation that we have enacted since the great mobilization for this war been of a temporary nature?

Colonel HUDNALL. You mean with reference to the Nurse Corps, sir?

Mr. SPARKMAN. No, no; everything.

Colonel HUDNALL. I am afraid that is a wider range than I have had observation of.

Mr. SPARKMAN. You stick to the Medical Corps?

Colonel HUDNALL. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Of course, we had the Pharmacy Corps bill for permanency?

Colonel HUDNALL. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPARKMAN. And the Surgeon General objected to that?

Colonel HUDNALL. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPARKMAN. And you have no permanent Pharmacy Corps?

Colonel HUDNALL. If I may say so, I think there was a Pharmacy Corps permanent in the Army at one time because previously the Medical Administrative Corps had been so fixed that only pharmacists were eligible for appointment in the Medical Administrative Corps.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Yes; but it was the Medical Administrative Corps rather than the Pharmacy Corps?

Colonel HUDNALL. It was still termed the "Medical Administrative Corps."

The CHAIRMAN. Do you have anything further to say?

Colonel HUDNALL. I would like to say something additional, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. All right, sir.

Colonel HUDNALL. That I do not believe that permanent legislation now will assist in any way in attracting any better quality into the Nurse Corps than we have had for many years past, and they have been very excellent and quite efficient, and that nurses at this time are required under Army regulations to salute and receive salutes, and also receive the same mileage and per diem allowances to travel as allowed other officers. Temporary legislation has and will take care of that.

The CHAIRMAN. In other words, it is the suggestion of the Surgeon General and the War Department they should be given equality in allowance, pay, and rank, but it ought to be temporary?

Colonel HUDNALL. That is right.

Mr. ELSTON. Colonel, when will you be in favor of giving them permanent rank?

Colonel HUDNALL. That is when the complete matter may be studied and determinations made. How long that will take I do not know, sir. I do not believe anyone can tell.

Mr. ELSTON. Have you reached any conclusion in the Surgeon General's office yet that they at any time shall have permanent rank?

Colonel HUDNALL. That is part of the consideration. How far the conclusion has gone I cannot answer that. I do not know.

Mr. ELSTON. Then the impression I got is erroneous that later on there will be a recommendation that they will be given permanent rank?

Colonel HUDNALL. I do not know who made that statement, and I do not know who would say that was not true; I do not know about that. But I do know the War Department has eliminated from the consideration of the officers here any permanent legislation as to what the permanent Army may be, and that the matter is for the final consideration or determination of the War Department as to what the size of the Army will be.

Mr. ELSTON. You concede Mrs. Bolton's point, do you not, that there would be an interval after the war before Congress could act in which the nurses would not have permanent rank, even if later on it was given to them, and that during that interval it would be difficult to attract nurses into the Army?

Colonel HUDNALL. I believe, sir, that that is a matter that would be handled by any temporary legislation you pass.

Mr. THOMASON. We still have a Congress or hope we do.

Mr. JOHNSON. Colonel, is it your idea you want to try this out and maybe they will come around to the view it will be permanent? Is that the viewpoint of the Medical Corps?

Colonel HUDNALL. That is part of the things under consideration. I am not in a position to say just what it is.

Mr. JOHNSON. As far as you go now you want to make it temporary?

Colonel HUDNALL. Yes, sir.

Mr. JOHNSON. Your mind is fixed on that?

Colonel HUDNALL. Yes, sir.

Mr. JOHNSON. And perhaps they will make it permanent?

Colonel HUDNALL. What they will do I do not think can be stated now, sir.

Mr. ELSTON. Colonel, this is not a new experiment? You have had nurses in the Army since 1901?

Colonel HUDNALL. Yes, sir.

Mr. ELSTON. What would you have to find out in order to come to that conclusion as to permanency of rank?

Colonel HUDNALL. Well, sir, if I may say so, the bill recently passed in this 828 allowed some inequalities and such as would require other legislation. I believe that any other temporary bill passed would handle any inequities, and I do not believe they are in a state now to pass anything permanent.

The CHAIRMAN. All appointments made in even field officers on battle fronts are temporary during wartime; nearly all of them?

Colonel HUDNALL. Yes, sir; the appointments made during war-time are temporary now. There are no permanent ones.

The CHAIRMAN. D. R. Wolverton, national educational director of the Regular Veterans' Association.

STATEMENT OF LT. COL. D. R. WOLVERTON, RETIRED, NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR, REGULAR VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

Mr. WOLVERTON. I am Lt. Col. D. R. Wolverton, retired national educational director of the Regular Veterans' Association.

The Regular Veterans' Association desires to go on record as supporting Mrs. Bolton's bill, H. R. 3761, with amendments which are identical with those hereby submitted, giving permanent full military rank to the members of the Army Nurse Corps.

(H. R. 3761 with the amendments above mentioned is as follows:)

[H. R. 3761, 78th Cong., 1st sess.]

A BILL To provide for full military rank for members of the Army Nurse Corps, dietitians, and physical-therapy aides, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be in the Medical Department of the Army an Army Nurse Corps, consisting of female personnel.

SEC. 2. (a) The Army Nurse Corps shall consist of one superintendent who shall be a colonel, and such other officers of lower rank as the Secretary of War may prescribe, who shall be citizens of the United States and shall have such education and training and shall have passed such moral, mental, and physical examination as shall be prescribed by the Surgeon General. Such other officers of lower rank than colonel as the Secretary of War may prescribe may also be

appointed in the Army of the United States, under the provisions of the joint resolution of September 22, 1941 (55 Stat. 728), and assigned to the Army Nurse Corps. Nothing contained in this Act shall prohibit appointments in the Army Nurse Corps, as vacancies may exist therein, of officers directly from civilian life or from those appointed in the Army of the United States and assigned to the Army Nurse Corps.

(b) The superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps on the date this Act takes effect shall receive a commission as colonel in the Army Nurse Corps as hereby constituted. All other members (other than reserve nurses) of such corps on the date this Act takes effect shall receive commissions as officers in the Army Nurse Corps as hereby constituted, with permanent ranks corresponding to the respective permanent relative ranks held by them on such date. Promotions to higher permanent rank will be determined by position vacancies as authorized by the Secretary of War. All temporary ranks held by members of the Army Nurse Corps on the date this Act takes effect shall be continued to be held by them for the duration of the present war and six months thereafter: *Provided, however,* That nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to prohibit promotions or demotions to other temporary ranks.

(c) All other members (Reserve nurses) of the Army Nurse Corps on the date this Act takes effect shall receive commissions as officers in the Army of the United States under the provisions of the joint resolution of September 22, 1941 (55 Stat. 728), with ranks corresponding to the respective relative ranks held by them on such date and shall be assigned to the Army Nurse Corps as hereby constituted.

SEC. 3. (a) There shall be included in the Medical Department of the Army such female dietetic and physical-therapy personnel (exclusive of students and apprentices) as the Secretary of War may prescribe, who shall be citizens of the United States and shall have such training and shall have passed such moral, mental, and physical examination as shall be prescribed by the Surgeon General. A director of dietitians and a director of physical-therapy aides, each of whom shall be a major, and such other officers of lower rank as the Secretary of War may prescribe and who were employees of the Medical Department at large prior to and including the passage of the joint resolution of September 22, 1941 (55 Stat. 728), shall be made members of the permanent Military Establishment. Those appointed subsequent to September 22, 1941, shall receive commissions in the Army of the United States.

(b) The director of dietitians and the director of physical-therapy aides and all dietitians and all physical-therapy aides who were members of the Medical Department prior to September 22, 1941, and who on the date this Act takes effect, hold the relative rank of commissioned officer shall receive commissions as officers in the Regular Establishment according to current policies as established by the Secretary of War and shall be assigned to the Medical Department. Those appointed subsequent to September 22, 1941, shall receive commissions in the Army of the United States under the provisions of the joint resolution of September 22, 1941 (55 Stat. 728), with the rank corresponding to the respective relative ranks held by them on such date and shall be assigned to the Medical Department. Nothing contained in this Act shall prohibit the commissioning of dietitians and physical-therapy aides in the United States Army for assignment to the Medical Department to fill vacancies as they may exist or otherwise to fulfill the need for officers of permanent rank as determined by the Secretary of War.

SEC. 4. Except as otherwise expressly provided by this Act, all provisions of law with respect to commissioned officers of the Army, including those provisions of law conferring rights, privileges, immunities, and benefits upon commissioned personnel, their dependents and beneficiaries, shall apply to officers appointed hereunder in the Army Nurse Corps or in the Army of the United States.

SEC. 5. In addition to officers in the Army Nurse Corps, any person appointed and assigned as an officer in the Army of the United States under the provisions of sections 2 and 3 of this Act shall be eligible to be retired under any law providing for the retirement of members of the Army Nurse Corps, and any such person, including officers in the Army Nurse Corps, who, while serving under such appointment and assignment, is so retired for disability shall receive retired pay at the rate of 75 per centum of the active duty base and longevity pay received by her while serving in the highest rank in which she served under any such appointment and assignment, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, shall be placed upon the Army Nurse Corps retired list in such highest rank. Any mem-

ber of the Army Nurse Corps retired prior to the date of enactment of this Act for disability and any female dietitian or physical-therapy aide so retired between January 12, 1943, and the date of enactment of this Act shall receive, effective on the first day of the first month next following the date of enactment of this Act, retired pay at the rate of 75 per centum of the highest active duty base and longevity pay received by her while serving in the Army Nurse Corps or Medical Department of the Army, as the case may be, during the above-cited applicable period.

SEC. 6. (a) In computing, for all purposes, service of officers appointed in the Army Nurse Corps and officers appointed in the Army of the United States and assigned to the Army Nurse Corps, there shall be credited active service in the Army Nurse Corps, as heretofore and hereby constituted, and in the Navy Nurse Corps, active service as contract nurse prior to February 2, 1901, and service as a Reserve nurse on active duty since February 2, 1901, and service rendered pursuant to an appointment under this Act.

(b) In computing, for all purposes, service of dietitians and physical-therapy aides, there shall be credited all active full-time service (except service as a student or apprentice) in the dietetic or physical-therapy categories rendered subsequent to April 6, 1917, as a civilian employee of the War Department and active service rendered as a dietitian or physical-therapy aide under the provisions of the Act approved December 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 1072), and services rendered pursuant to an appointment under this Act.

SEC. 7. With respect to medical, sanitary, dietary, and physical-therapy matters and all other work within the line of their professional duties, officers appointed hereunder in the Army Nurse Corps or in the Army of the United States shall have authority in and about military hospitals next after the other officers of the Medical Department, and shall exercise command over such other personnel of the Army as may be specifically assigned to duty under them.

SEC. 8. The authority appointing a court martial for the trial of an officer appointed hereunder in the Army Nurse Corps or in the Army of the United States shall, whenever practicable, detail one or more other officers so appointed to serve on the court.

SEC. 9. When an officer appointed hereunder in the Army Nurse Corps or in the Army of the United States has attained the age of fifty-five years or is found by a board of medical officers to have become disabled in line of duty (unless there is a suitable administrative or executive position for which she is qualified), she shall be placed on the retired list of the Army with the rank held by her at the time of her retirement.

SEC. 10. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person appointed and assigned under the provisions of sections 2 (b), 2 (c), and 3 (b) of this Act who is a member of the Army Nurse Corps or who has previously held an appointment as a female dietitian or physical-therapy aide under the provisions of the Act of December 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 1072), shall be entitled to any uniform allowance payable to officers of the Army of the United States. Any such person who, either as a member of the Army Nurse Corps or a dietitian or physical-therapy aide, has not received a complete issue of uniforms, insignia, accessories, and equipment prescribed by regulations of the Secretary of War for persons in the respective categories may be issued the remainder of such prescribed articles, and any such person who has heretofore or may hereafter receive such complete issue, or any part thereof, may retain such articles as her personal property.

SEC. 11. For the purpose of effectuating prompt and equitable appointments under sections 2 and 3 (b) of this Act of the personnel mentioned in the title of this Act who are on active duty or who are prisoners of war or otherwise detained by the enemy on the date of enactment of this Act, the President is authorized to appoint personnel in commissioned ranks as provided in sections 2 and 3 (b) of this Act on the effective date of the order of appointment by means of a blanket order or orders without specifying the names of the personnel so appointed. Any person so appointed by such blanket order or orders shall be deemed for all purposes to have accepted her appointment as an officer in the Army Nurse Corps or in the Army of the United States upon the effective date of such blanket order unless she shall expressly decline such appointment, and shall receive from such date the pay and allowances of the commissioned rank to which she was so appointed. No such person who, upon receiving an appointment, shall have subscribed to the oath of office required by section 1757, Revised Statutes, shall be required to renew such oath or to take a new oath upon her appointment as a commissioned officer, if her services after the taking of such oath shall have been continuous.

SEC. 12. The Secretary of War is authorized to use appropriations available to the Military Establishment to carry into effect the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 13. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with the provisions of this Act are repealed, except that the Act entitled "An Act to increase the pay and allowances of members of the Army Nurse Corps, and for other purposes", approved December 22, 1942, shall remain in effect solely to the extent necessary to determine in accordance with said Act the relative rank and pay and allowances of technical and professional female personnel in categories required for duty outside the continental United States and of the superintendent and members of the Navy Nurse Corps.

SEC. 14. Mileage and other travel allowances to first duty station payable to officers commissioned from civilian life in the Army of the United States shall be allowed to nurses, dietitians, and physical-therapy aides who entered the armed forces since December 22, 1942, and payments which have been made in accord herewith are confirmed. From the effective date of this Act nurses, dietitians, and physical-therapy aides who receive commissions as officers from civilian life will be entitled to mileage and other travel allowances to first duty station payable to officers commissioned from civilian life in the Medical Department of the Army.

SEC. 15. On and after the effective date of this Act retired members of the Army Nurse Corps retired prior to December 1, 1941, shall have their retired pay computed as now authorized by law on the basis of pay provided in the Act of December 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 1072).

SEC. 16. This Act shall take effect _____ days after the date of its enactment.

Mr. WOLVERTON. In case the only bill considered by the committee is H. R. 4445 the Regular Veterans' Association desires to submit amendments to this bill as follows, which will provide for permanent appointment as officers in the United States Army members of the Army Nurse Corps.

(H. R. 4445 with amendments mentioned above is as follows:)

[H. R. 4445, 78th Cong., 2d sess.]

A BILL To authorize the permanent appointment as officers in the United States Army, members of the Army Nurse Corps, and female dietitians and physical-therapy personnel having the necessary qualifications for appointment in such corps, and the Medical Department, and to authorize temporary appointment as officers in the Army of the United States of graduate registered nurses having the necessary qualifications for military service and assignment to the Army Nurse Corps, and female dietetic and physical-therapy personnel of the Medical Department of the Army (exclusive of students and apprentices), and female persons having the necessary qualifications for appointment in such department as female dietetic and physical-therapy personnel, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, members of the Army Nurse Corps, female persons having the necessary qualifications for appointment in such corps, female dietetic and physical-therapy personnel of the Medical Department of the Army (exclusive of students and apprentices) appointed under the provisions of the Act of December 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 1072), and female persons having necessary qualifications for appointments in such department as female dietetic or physical-therapy personnel under the provisions of the Act of December 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 1072), may be appointed as officers in the United States Army and/or in the Army of the United States under the provisions of this Act and the joint resolution of September 22, 1941 (55 Stat. 728), as amended by the Act of July 7, 1943 (Public Law 114, Seventy-eighth Congress), in the grades therein prescribed, and assigned, respectively, to the Army Nurse Corps and Medical Department of the Army. All persons so appointed and assigned shall have authority in and about military hospitals as regards medical and sanitary matters and all other work within the scope of their professional duties next after other officers of the Medical Department and, except as above provided, shall exercise command only over those members of the Army of the United States specifically placed under their command. Members of the Army Nurse Corps so appointed and assigned shall not by acceptance of their appointments vacate their appointments in the Army Nurse Corps.

SEC. 2. All persons appointed and assigned as officers in the United States Army and the Army of the United States under the provisions of section 1 of

this Act and their dependents and beneficiaries shall have all the rights, privileges, and benefits accorded in like cases to officers of the United States Army and other persons appointed under the joint resolution of September 22, 1941 (55 Stat. 728), as amended, except where otherwise expressly provided in this or any subsequent Act.

SEC. 3. In addition to members of the Army Nurse Corps, female dietitians and physical-therapy aides of the United States Army and any person appointed and assigned as an officer in the Army of the United States under the provisions of section 1 of this Act shall be eligible to be retired under any law providing for the retirement of members of the Army Nurse Corps, but based upon pay as set out in act of December 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 1072) and any such person, including members of the Army Nurse Corps, who, while serving under such appointment and assignment, is so retired for disability shall receive retired pay at the rate of 75 per centum of the active duty base and longevity pay received by her while serving in the highest grade in which she served under any such appointment and assignment, and, notwithstanding any other provision of law, shall be placed upon the Army Nurse Corps retired list in such highest grade. Any member of the Army Nurse Corps retired between December 7, 1941, and the date of enactment of this Act for disability and any female dietitian or physical-therapy aide so retired between January 12, 1943, and the date of enactment of this Act shall receive, effective on the first day of the first month next following the date of enactment of this Act, retired pay at the rate of 75 per centum of the highest active duty base and longevity pay received by her while serving in the Army Nurse Corps or Medical Department of the Army, as the case may be, during the above-cited applicable period.

SEC. 4. In computing years of service for all purposes of members of the Army Nurse Corps appointed and assigned under the provisions of section 1 of this Act there shall be credited active service in the Army Nurse Corps and in the Navy Nurse Corps, active service as a contract nurse prior to February 2, 1901, and service rendered pursuant to an appointment under this Act.

SEC. 5. In computing years of service for all purposes of female dietetic and physical-therapy personnel appointed and assigned under the provisions of section 1 of this Act there shall be credited all active full-time service (except as a student or apprentice) in the dietetic or physical-therapy categories rendered subsequent to April 6, 1917, as a civilian employee of the War Department, service rendered pursuant to an appointment as a female dietitian or physical-therapy aide under the provisions of the Act of December 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 1072), and service rendered pursuant to an appointment under this Act.

SEC. 6. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no woman appointed and assigned under the provisions of section 1 of this Act who is a member of the Army Nurse Corps or who has previously held an appointment as a female dietitian or physical-therapy aide under the provisions of the Act of December 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 1072), shall be entitled to any uniform allowance payable to officers of the Army of the United States. Any such woman who, either as a member of the Army Nurse Corps or a dietitian or physical-therapy aide, has not received a complete issue of uniforms, insignia, accessories, and equipment prescribed by regulations of the Secretary of War for persons in the respective categories may be issued the remainder of such prescribed articles, and any such woman who has heretofore or may hereafter receive such complete issue, or any part thereof, may retain such articles as her personal property.

SEC. 7. For the purpose of effectuating prompt and equitable appointments under section 1 of this Act of the personnel mentioned in the title of this Act who are on active duty on the date of enactment of this Act, the President is authorized to appoint, in commissioned grades corresponding to the relative rank held by such personnel on the effective date of the order of appointment, all or any part of such personnel by means of a blanket order without specifying the names of the personnel so appointed. Any person so appointed by such blanket order shall be deemed for all purposes to have accepted her appointment as an officer in the Army of the United States upon the effective date of such blanket order unless she shall expressly decline such appointment, and shall receive from such date the pay and allowances of the commissioned grade to which she was so appointed, except those entitled to permanent commissions in the United States Army shall specifically accept the same. No such person who, upon receiving an appointment in the Army of the United States, shall have subscribed to the oath of office required by section 1757, Revised Statutes, shall be required

to renew such oath or to take a new oath upon her appointment as a commissioned officer, if her service in the Army of the United States after the taking of such oath shall have been continuous.

Sec. 8. Mileage and other travel allowances to first duty station payable to officers commissioned from civilian life in the Army of the United States shall be allowed to nurses, dietitians, and physical-therapy aides who entered the armed forces since December 22, 1942, and payments which have been made in accord herewith are confirmed. From the effective date of this Act nurses, dietitians, and physical-therapy aides who receive commissions as officers from civilian life will be entitled to mileage and other travel allowances to first duty station payable to officers commissioned from civilian life in the Medical Department of the Army.

Mr. WOLVERTON. Mrs. Bolton, in her remarks, referred to the fact that the Army Nurse Corps is the stepchild of all military services, and I wish to have placed in the record an article written by Lee Casey in the Rocky Mountain News, Denver, Colo., which covers the inadequate treatment of the Army nurses.

(The article referred to is as follows:)

[The Regular, Washington, D. C., March 10, 1944]

ARMY NURSE IS STEPCHILD OF ALL MILITARY SERVICES

(By Lee Casey, in the Rocky Mountain News, Denver, Colo.)

Here is the case of Sue—consider it, and reach your own conclusions.

Sue is a college graduate. After an arts degree, she studied nursing and after graduation taught nursing in a university. Early in 1941, believing war was imminent, she volunteered as an Army nurse. She was at Pearl Harbor when the attack came. She was under fire, and care for wounded men during long weeks of agony. Exposure, fatigue, the strain of intense and exciting work, shattered her health. She was sent to Fitzsimons Hospital to be treated for tuberculosis. After a year's treatment she was found to be totally and permanently disabled.

Her discharge pay, as an Army nurse, second lieutenant, is \$60 a month.

Had she held the same rank as a WAC or a WAVE or a Navy nurse, her pay would be \$112.50 a month.

"We are proud to be Army nurses," several young women whose situation is similar to that of Sue told me. "But we don't like to be treated as stepchildren."

At this moment there are more than 100 nurse patients at Fitzsimons Hospital who are facing the same sort of discrimination.

There is Anne, who arrived in Africa in December 1942, less than a month after the invasion, went through the campaign in Sicily and last July was sent to Fitzsimons from Sicily by way of Africa. She, too, is a tuberculosis sufferer, having sacrificed her health for the wounded under her care. She, too, may be told she is totally and permanently disabled.

There is Barbara, who broke down after a year and a half in Ireland and England. And Nellie, who lost her health from exposure and overwork during 14 months in India.

Maybe they will recover and be able to return to active duty. They hope so, of course. But if they don't—well, they'll be subject to the same sort of discrimination that worked to the detriment of Sue.

Why isn't the Army nurse given a square deal? Because, from some strange quirk—or perhaps from plain neglect—the Army nurse, although she belongs to the oldest service women's corps, holds only what is called "relative rank." A Navy nurse is entitled to the same benefits and privileges of any other officer of her grade; so is an officer of the WAC's or WAVES. But, whereas any of the other second lieutenants is allowed under a total and permanent disability three-fourths of a base pay of \$150 a month, the Army nurse is given an allowance on a base pay of \$90 a month.

Why? Because the rank of the others is permanent, the rank of the Army nurse is relative.

A measure to remedy this obvious and crying injustice was introduced in December by Representative Frances Payne Bolton and is before the House Military Affairs Committee. Mrs. Bolton's bill provides that the Army nurse be accorded permanent rank and the according retirement rights.

Meanwhile, is there cause for wonder about the difficulty of recruiting Army nurses, when nurses are being trained and exposed to the hardships and perils that are part of war? They are not asking to have the best of anything; they simply do not care to be given the worst of it—don't like to be discriminated against solely because they are nurses.

Who can blame them? The injustice and unfairness of the present policy is only too obvious. It ought to be remedied at once.

Congress ought to put through Mrs. Bolton's measure, H. R. 3761, with an absolute minimum of delay. Here, too, is a question on which Major Wuertele and Mr. Gillespie ought to be in full agreement. For there are not two sides to it. H. R. 3761 is just plain justice and common sense.

Mr. WOLVERTON. I have had a great deal of experience as an officer of the Regular Army in connection with the Army Nurse Corps. When I was on duty at Fort Dix, N. J., in 1942, at the time that was a great staging area and I was called on the phone from the port of embarkation in New York, asking me to send 65 nurses on a train leaving at 5 p. m., for the port to be send to overseas duty. This information arrived at 11 a. m., and I immediately contacted Captain Bletch, of the Army Nurse Corps, who assigned one of the nurses to accompany me to arrange for the transportation while the other nurses prepared their luggage for shipment. By 4:30 that afternoon they had completed everything and Army trucks were assigned to haul them and their luggage to the railroad train. When they arrived they had to jump out of these Army trucks as there was no other way to alight. Their baggage and trunk lockers had to be removed and put on the train, but through all this ordeal their spirits were high and as they moved out of the station they had their thumbs up for victory.

It is this courage that has made it possible for them to jump from troop transports with 50-pound packs on their backs and swim to shore under hostile fire; to dig fox holes in the front line for their protection; to be present in evacuation hospitals 3 to 6 miles behind the line taking care of the wounded. And at Anzio beachhead an evacuation hospital was bombed killing three nurses outright and wounding many others, some of whom died later of their wounds.

During my tour on the Panama Canal from 1905 to 1916, and while in Ancon Hospital with an attack of malaria it was my privilege to see our female nurses ministering to the needs of our sick. And on one occasion I saw a nurse assisting the male attendants of the corps in carrying a yellow-fever patient from the ward to the outer room just before he died.

It was in 1913 that I first met Colonel Blanchfield when she was a nurse in the operating room at Ancon Hospital. I have followed her service with a great deal of interest through all these years since then, including World War No. 1, in peacetime and the present war. She has done a wonderful piece of work in organizing the present Nurse Corps to its strength of 40,000 nurses and is a great administrator.

It is for Colonel Blanchfield and her assistants that the Regular Veterans' Association beg this committee to recommend to the Con-

gress that they be given permanent rank in the Army for their self sacrifice, loyalty to the service, and their nobility of soul.

I thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Wolverton.

We will have to close now and go into executive session for a few minutes.

(Whereupon, at 12 o'clock noon the committee adjourned sine die.)

X

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